**Email:**

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you today with the plea to end Common Core in NYS. In states where CC was adopted in 2011, they are already seeing children who cannot do basic addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. In 2 years children's ability to print has decreased drastically as Common Core makes everything technological based. Children have no concept of what fractions are or how to do fractions (please listen to Dr. Miigram's presentation - he refused to sign off on the CC Standards - and he says the CC does not address fractions, the foundation of math: [http://stopccssinnys.com/Media.html](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fstopccssinnys.com%2FMedia.html&h=qAQEC-BdJ&enc=AZP107pfJagTHHBXPOLTjcaDcdEcLNY6qo71T-TI17pNUnkQ6zK2gtCtZFF0-iu2maUB6O_E0rg1PbCbTKSzHXerY-eubwikkfOT7zk5GJ6TMzVrMk9EhV0osT8KdW3sc5_3K0wY4NcPaJw0u3wt1czv&s=1)). They are seeing children unable to research and present facts. Instead their reports are littered with emotional statements: "I think", "I feel" ([http://solidarityintruth.co/2013/11/22/the-common-core-nightmare/](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fsolidarityintruth.co%2F2013%2F11%2F22%2Fthe-common-core-nightmare%2F&h=gAQFPf6Wi&enc=AZOk7sxZ9V5btS_X_l7Q4da2WP-EiFQvAcJis6paEod9ufsX3w5SwxBd4ELbISk3P3hAeyvMkD3Vih5UKk50QGgmjd-9TG6Uc4Vhdh9-NKuk6z_bOhAzlE8tUphnE6t9GY7iC_FVfBamc6HLQ3gymTVW&s=1)). This is what is happening to our youth. Please do not let it happen to our students in NYS. Please do your job as our legislator and vote to abolish Common Core in NY.

As top attorneys for the U.S. Department of Education have warned: states will become little more than “administrative units” in the nationalized education scheme if Common Core remains. Not only is this a direct affront to the U.S. Constitution...it will eventually mean complete loss of state and local control over education. The goal of CC (as stated by its head writers David Coleman and Jason Zimba) is to have every school in America teaching the same thing, every day, at the same time. When you read the standards it is evident they are written in a manner that will teach students what to think, not how to think.

We want our children to be critical independent thinks. Not copycats of each other from coast to coast. It is time to fight for our children and end Common Core.

Thank you,

**Email:**

Our Governor is not listening to the citizens of New York. The Regents are not listening to the citizens of New York. It is up to you as our legislator to vote Common Core out of NYS.

Parents and educators across the state are asking you to step up to the plate and abolish Common Core. Vote it out. Common Core is standardization, one size fits all, a rigid set of performance. Every student without exception (mainstream or special needs) is expected to reach the same benchmarks at the same time at every grade level. It is not a race to the top. It is a race to mediocrity by pulling our top students down so we are all the same. As top attorneys for the U.S. Department of Education have warned, states will become little more than “administrative units” in the nationalized education scheme ([http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/education/item/16610-educators-expose-dangers-of-common-core-national-e](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thenewamerican.com%2Fculture%2Feducation%2Fitem%2F16610-educators-expose-dangers-of-common-core-national-e&h=yAQFdcyFq&enc=AZMg27170rCapEYur8d-au1OWS5KUkVy5Dxve6KN0kbtqAApNLsD0Y8DTKNXTUcCOcu4tUXsYZpN4dpljM0jpp0wAGJoaje9AAzmE92QG5Lsw01D2iEXkysw2hUzUudufNHHlS91VOFYJm8y4tdZvDts&s=1)). This, of course, violates the 10th Amendment - which is being violated every day with federal intrusion into education. The goal of Common Core is to have every school in America teaching the same thing, every day, at the same time. Worse - the standards were written in a manner that will teach students what to think, not how to think. The standards are copyrighted. Cannot be changed. Only what the members of the NGA and CCSSO. want are children to learn will be taught. Soon all local and state control will be taken away as the federal government continues its reach. Its arms are already into so much related to Common Core. NYS is sending all students data to the US Department of Education (DOE). The US DOE is developing 16 job clusters to filter our children into certain career paths by 6th grade.

In New York we have a diverse population of students. Each with their own talents that should be developed and supported. Children are unique and uncommon; and deserve the opportunity to learn free from standardization.

Please use your role as our legislator to vote out Common Core.

**Email:**

I am a citizen of New York. I believe Common Core must be abolished. You as our elected official, who was voted into office by the people, represent the people. We are asking you to abolish Common Core. Sign on to Al Graf's bill to end Common Core. Or, please write your own companion bill.

Common Core is not about education, or developing free thinking, creative, intelligent students. Common Core is standardization; a one size fits all with a rigid set of performance. Every student without exception - mainstream or special needs - is expected to reach the same benchmarks at the same time at every grade level. Impossible!! Children develop at different rates. Children whose talents and abilities that lay outside of what a test can "test" - creativity, artistry, athleticism and more - will be labeled a failure when their minds work differently.

The Common Core standards are now lower than NY's old standards. Algebra 1 is pushed from 8th grade to 9th grade; and the standards end at Algebra 2. Creative, complex literature to develop true critical thinking skills (including writing and understanding complex sentences and themes) is not a part of Common Core. These are just the tips of the iceberg. The writers of the Common Core have no education experience, no experience in education. Jason Zimba - lead writer on math - has testified under oath that the math standards are "fuzzy and only prepare at most for a 2 year college. The attached link will show you in David Coleman's own words - lead writer of the ELA standards - that he had to business in writing the ELA standards.

Please vote to abolish Common Core. We will fight for our children and ask you to do the same. They do not deserve this system under Common Core.

Sincerely,

**Email:**

Good evening,

Common Core is hurting all of our children. It is not a race to the top: it is a race to mediocrity. With our gifted children and our special needs children being hurt enormously. Our special needs children (children that thrive in environments where teachers are loving, creative and dynamic) are being hurt by the one-size fits all standards and attached curriculum. Special needs children are taught at their chronological age, not their cognitive age. Imagine a child who is 14 years old with a cognitive age of 8 being forced to learn material of a mainstream 14 year old. This sets up the child and the teacher for failure. The special needs children have to take the state tests at their chronological age (not cognitive age). The teacher gets hurt as 20% of their evaluation is dependent on the score on the test. Special education teachers are especially hurt. This is unacceptable and must be changed!!! We cannot set our children up for automatic failure!!

Additionally, as part of Common Core and the Regents Reform Agenda, there is no longer a local diploma. There is now only a Regents diploma with all Regents exams Common Core aligned. If a special needs child cannot get a 65 on both the ELA and math Regents (or a 55 on five Regents exam) the child will only get a certificate, not a diploma. With a certificate, a child cannot attend college, join the military and will have a difficult time securing a job. Just because a child has special needs does not mean the child does not have skills and abilities to benefit us all.

As our representative in Albany – we ask you to listen to us the people of New York and vote to end Common Core immediately. Slowing down implementation, tweaking tests, providing more professional development will not solve the problem that is Common Core. The standards are copyrighted. They cannot be changed (unless agreed by 2/3 of the states). Therefore, the “one size fits all” is here until YOU VOTE TO END COMMON CORE.

Please we ask you: save education, save our teachers. End Common Core

**Email:**

Good Evening –

The Common Core State Standards is an attempt to “teacher-proof” curriculum, meaning taking away teachers ability to develop, create and design their own curricula. Instead, teachers in our state are being given purchased and prescribed instructional materials, and test preparation packets. The Common Core’s approach to learning will only maximize corporate profits of the producers of educational materials and software, while hurting our students and teachers. The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, in their May 2012 report, Putting a Price Tag on the Common Core, estimates the national cost for compliance with Common Core will be between $1 billion and $8 billion, and the profits will go almost directly to publishers. Our students are not robots or mirror images of each other. They all have different needs and styles of learning. Historically, teachers have been able to design their own curriculums to meet these many needs. Now under Common Core, this ability has been stripped. Go to [www.engageny.com](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.engageny.com%2F&h=fAQHgOHFF&enc=AZOF2ePRE3d1sfvnDFJJaToU6hQ3STVe4MozKpjeXamtHG1DtAknNMoRpSmNZoXcMkdAaGGi_tp-ExZkaNjKSK0-r53S5wshC8sF55wlcowOBtApvkxr2K7OlSPgu8ILc_RZLxUOFkZjM7wz-VcPJMfs&s=1). Look at the modules. They are scripted – they give teacher prompts, students responses. They tell how long to spend on each concept, how to teach the concept and how long it should take for the student to learn. There is no time for “real” teaching, for helping a struggling student or expanding on any ideas.

And, now because teachers are forced to teach from pre-designed curricula we are seeing (and WILL see) the lose of local control over curriculum and instruction. It is the teacher created instructional materials that have lead to our country’s innovation. The one-size-fits-all standards (and subsequent curriculum for all schools K-12) are closing the door on educational innovation. Without innovation what happens to our country? We will freeze with the current unacceptable status quo. All students will think alike, be alike and know the exact same thing. Gone will be the future innovators, and creators and more. There cannot be a best design for curriculum in any subject. Students differ by district (by socio-economic reasons, class size, and more). Requiring a single set of curriculum, and that is what it is as it is tied to the test which are tied to the standards is wrong. Our students are different – they have different interests, talents and needs. Our schools should not be constrained. We must encourage multiple ways of teaching and learning. This is not possible under Common Core. This is one more reason why we are asking for you to vote to end Common Core

**Email:**

Common Core is nationalized education.

Proponents of Common Core say we must have nationalized education (anything nationalized is not a good thing by itself) because America's public education is failing our children. The United States has a big poverty problem; this is the #1 problem facing our educators. In New York State, we have a large percentage of children in poverty, in 2012 almost 24% (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/Tables/43-children-in-poverty?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/10-39,4,40-49,5,50-52,6-9/false/868,867,133,38,35/any/321,322>). Common Core does nothing to address this issue, actually it makes it worse. Valuable resources that could be used to help our disadvantaged students is being stipend off for technological upgrades (required under CC), massive amounts of professional development, and more.

When you account for poverty, the US is at the top of the list (even under PISA) for education. What does it say about our education when the top 13 countries in the world send their children to our U.S. colleges ([http://www.oecd.org/education/skills-beyond-school/48631582.pdf](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oecd.org%2Feducation%2Fskills-beyond-school%2F48631582.pdf&h=pAQHjQOFD&enc=AZNhrQf21HOn57gdnngFDCsVanL569dyZ7RpC0c6JGp2QOSCay_ao3iRFRTX_KoVaxLjAchmhz8c2vDE7h3rJbMOfYi_qy4DFHwgMB531onFLtU2CgDFatpva2wvgyYH9KPrCg02BLaarL1VsphhsEgb&s=1)). It means our colleges must be strong. For our colleges to be strong and demanding, our children heading into college must be at the top.

The U.S. is a place where our students emerge from high school - and into secondary school or not - full of knowledge, creativity and perseverance. The U.S. owns over 2.5 million patents far exceeding any other country in the world. What will happen to our children under Common Core? Where individualism, creativity, thinking outside the box is discouraged? The will to be an entrepreneur or thinker will disappear. Under Common Core, all children are to be the same: to learn the same materials, at the same time, with the same direction. Day after day, year after year. Common Core will stifle our creativity and innovation. What will happen to our great nation? A nation built upon individualism.

**Email:**

Good Evening,

I am writing to you tonight to ask you to use your position as a legislator to vote to stop Common Core immediately. The Common Core standards are of insufficient quality. They should not be our state’s standards. Our students deserve more than subpar. The CC math standards fail to meet the targets recommended by the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (the standards of leading states and our international competitors). The Common Core math standards also require that geometry be taught by an experimental method that had never been used successfully anywhere in the world (this method of geometry was abandoned by a school for the gifted in Russia in the 1950s as their students failed to understand it and it led to a decline in the ability to do geometry). The Common Core math standards do not teach least common denominators; delay until sixth grade fluency in division; eliminate conversions between fractions, decimals and percents; adopt a new definition of algebra as “functional algebra” that de-emphasizes algebraic manipulation (<http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/publications/notes/why-common-core-bad-america>). In addition, Algebra 1 is moved to 9th grade, from 8th grade and the standards end at Algebra 2. Dr. James Milgram of Stanford University, the only mathematician on the Validation Committee, refused to sign off stating, “It’s almost a joke to think students in Common Core will be ready for math at any University.”

The CC Math Standards are NOT “rigorous” and will NOT prepare our children for a 4 year university and/or a STEM career or any career requiring an advanced degree. Jason Zimba, the writer of the Common Core math standards, stated that the “math standards will not prepare students for careers in STEM, for selective colleges. Please, listen to the following video of Jason Zimba in his own words,[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJZY4mh2rt8](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DeJZY4mh2rt8&h=tAQFZi9W5&enc=AZOovNqduPr6ZJnGeFzVKvYrqJQA_McSHtD2Thp6spnMTY7dqLSWdz08O_Y0SWOS_6OdVs112hegP7_UQDjzYBVYAFb46qqPMPdSbzfI3tys-7cFBLEdrA-GiREldv8VZ9h1aYFm07ungGrguQIPIJ7c&s=1" \t "_blank). Yet, even though the lead writer on the CC math standards says the standards are NOT enough, our children are being subjected to them. Their chances of getting into prestigious universities, Gone. Their chances of getting into 4 year universities, Gone. This is not the price our children should have to pay. They deserve a challenging and enriching education. And an education with options. Our schools should contain multiple models for our children to succeed, not just one.

Please vote to end Common Core.

**Email:**

 am sure you are all aware of what data mining is , but are you aware of the 416 data points of information that is being collected? Blood type, religion, family income, disabilities, guns in the home, do they feel lonely, political affiliation, parents education level, mental/psychological problems of the student or students family members, sex behaviors or attitudes, critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships....just to name a few. In 2012 the education secretary, Arne Duncan changed the FERPA law to allow for our children's personally identifiable information to be shared. With the FERPA law gutted I ask how can you assure us that the sensitive information collected on our children will be safe and secure? InBloom stated it is NOT a secure site and will sell information to third parties!!!!

I would also like to know how you are going to pay for the information to be uploaded, since the Race to the Top (RTTT) funds are gone and spent on making copies for the new Common Core Curriculum... ? How are we going to buy back the information from InBloom? It is estimated that it will cost 3-5 dollars per child.

Data Mining is just the tip of the iceberg. Studies funded by the Department of Education and the Gates foundation show that keeping tabs on physiological activity of our children is being developed alongside the Common Core. Facial expression cameras in every classroom, posture analysis seats, pressure computer mice, eye tracking devices, galvanic bracelets to measure "student engagement/frustration and teacher effectiveness." Again these systems are already being used in government funded programs!!

If more money is dangled in front of your faces are you going to blindly sign up for this too?

Thank You,

**Email:**

Top ranked school rejects CCSS

One the highest performing public school districts in the nation located in Germantown Wisconsin has decided to get rid of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Germantown school board decided this UNANIMOUSLY and will set “their own standards for model academic achievement.” District Administrator Jeff Holmes stated if Germantown was to adopt the CCSS, they would “fall down a road of mediocrity.”<http://beforeitsnews.com/agenda-21/2013/12/top-school-district-in-the-nation-opts-out-of-common-core-standards-video-230.html> In an article from the Wisconsin Reporter, Holmes said “If we could go back in time (and not adopt CCSS) it would be wonderful.”

Curriculum director (for Wisconsin) Brenda O’Brien wants to move in the direction of focusing on what the children should learn and not about the process of how they learn it. Wisconsin wants to make learning individualized were as the common core is one size fits all. As parents isn’t this what we want for our children? For an education system that sets them up for success by focusing on their strengths (and weaknesses) in a positive environment. To let teachers use their skills (and magic) in a way that gets kids excited about learning instead of being told exactly what to teach and exactly how to teach it.

If the CCSS are as great and “rigorous” as they say they are, then I ask you this. Why is one of the best schools, ranked in the top 5% nationally, getting rid of the Common Core?

Thank you for your time

**Email:**

I am writing to you today to ask you for your support in abolishing the Common Core.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) puts unwanted stress, frustration, anxiety… on our children. Aside from that, the Common Core is indoctrinating our children as young as 1st grade!!! In the (State of Utah) approved CC aligned book Voices- literature and writing, under the Voices Democracy Theme, it says children are to use their voices to advocate solutions to social problems and learn social knowledge and skills: to be social role models and social advocates. This is not an appropriate “Theme” for a 6 yr old. We know from famous Psychologist Jean Piaget that in the preoperational stage (ages 2-7) Children at this stage tend to be egocentric and struggle to see things from the perspective of others. While they are getting better with language and thinking, they still tend to think about things in very concrete terms. At this age they do not have the cognitive ability to be able to think “what’s wrong in the world and how do I organize people/people in my community to fix these social problems” like the CC book tells them to do. In the next paragraph under teacher’s instructions it states the teacher should tell the students that when they write a call to action, they should include emotional words to get readers to feel so strongly about the problem that they want to do what is being asked of them. It is teaching our children to “stir up anger and fear in their readers” and to “use manipulation instead of using logic.”
<http://beforeitsnews.com/agenda-21/2013/12/top-school-district-in-the-nation-opts-out-of-common-core-standards-video-230.html>

Furthermore the CCSS were not developed by educators. The Washington Post reviewed the make up of the committees that wrote and reviewed the CCSS. Of the 135 people “Not a single one of them was a k-3 classroom teacher or early childhood professional.” An alarming fact!!

I ask that you research further and do your homework on the Common Core. Ask yourself how these standards passed when educators did not develop them? What you find will astonish you. The Common Core needs to be stopped now for the future of our children and theirs…!!

Thank you

**Email:**

I am writing to you this evening to ask you to use your position as a legislator to vote to stop Common Core immediately. The common core is continually being referred to by its proponents as “rigorous” and “globally bench-marked.” There is no truth or evidence to support these claims. In fact the common core lowers the standards for everyone by as much as 2 GRADE LEVELS!!! CC has been described as a “race to the middle.” And as admitted by one drafter of the CC math standards, CC is designed to prepare students for a non-selective two-year community college, not a four-year university.

How can these new standards be successful when the common core was mostly written by non educators who have spent ZERO time in the classroom?

Math- By the end of elementary school US children will be one year behind their competitors and 2 years behind our international competitors and high achieving countries by the end of high school under the common core. Dr. James Milgram,( Stanford Professor) the only mathematician on the committee refused to sign off on the mathematics component stating “The Core Mathematics Standards are written to reflect very low expectations,” and calling them “as non-challenging as possible” with “extremely serious failings.”

English- Under the ELA standards technical manuals and pieces of government documents are the “book” of choice, replacing creative fiction literature. Under the ELA standards, literary studies have been reduced therefore so has the opportunity for critical thinking skills to be developed. Dr. Sandra Stotsky, the 21st-century chair in teacher quality at the University of Arkansas’s Department of Education Reform, refused to sign off on the standards stating they do not compare well with existing standards in places such as Massachusetts, for example. “They need to be drastically revised, and written by people who have taught in K-12, know how to write ELA standards, and/or are literary scholars or well-trained high-school English teachers,”
<http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/education/item/16192-common-core-a-scheme-to-rewrite-education>

Common Core is dumbing down the public education system and teaching our children to be mediocre.

Thank you for your time

**Email:**

Through the Race to the Top (RTTT) FEDERAL program (gave states a chance to compete for a portion of 4.3 billion dollars) the Federal Government put its foot in the state education door. Given very little time to consider due to a tight application deadline, states were forced to commit to the Common Core Standards, some sight unseen!

Common Core was created without state legislative involvement or authority, had no curriculum or content specialists, and it was never voted on by anybody. “At the last minute, two D.C.-based trade associations, the National Governors Association and the Council of State School Officers, were brought in to give the appearance of local and state involvement.” The Federal Government in its involvement has broken the law going against the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. IF the Federal Government is not involved then how come school boards and state legislators cannot make changes to the Common Core? Why are parents and tax payers unable to have a say, a voice in the education curriculum that affects their children and loved ones?

By dangling federal funds like a golden carrot in front of states in this time of financial hardship, the Federal Government has gone around the law and bound most of the nation to a one size fits all, race to the middle education system that uses standardized assessments reviewed and funded by the Department of Education, and implementing what is sure to be the most expensive education/data systems in America’s history! “This federal takeover of education is yet another instance of Washington elites expanding the scope, size, and reach of the federal government.”

Thank you

**Email:**

Good evening!

In a recent letter to Superintendents, Principals, and School Boards, Commissioner of Education Dr. John King wrote that criticisms of the new Common Core State Standards were based mostly on misinformation. He acknowledged that he recently attended 20 forums across the state and that “the statewide public forums gave us the opportunity to hear directly from parents, students, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders.” Mr. King and his cohorts at the Board of Regents have heard, but choose not to listen to the concerns of the parents, students, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders across the state!

Several times in his letter, Mr. King wrote that the New York State Department of Education is committed to teaching, not testing, and that implementation of CCSS did not require any additional testing. However, in reality, students are administered pre and posts tests for every class (Math, ELA, Art, Music, Gym, Science, and Social Studies). Also, due to the implementation of CCSS and the accompanying EngageNY curriculum, students are also administered pre and post testing for each Module!

He wrote: “study after study shows that our students lag behind in the knowledge and skills required for their future.” How can this be when 37 of the top 100 universities in the world can be found right here in the United States? In New York State, graduation rates are between 75% and 85%. New York also has 16 of the top 100 high schools in the country!

He wrote: “The Common Core standards, designed by teachers and education experts from across the country – and shaped by many New York State educators – will help us do better.” We all should know by now that CCSS were NOT written by teachers. CCSS was co-created by two not-for-profit public policy organizations: The National Governor’s Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Don’t let the fact that the words “Governor” and “states” in their titles fool you; public influence was NOT a part of the process of the development of CCSS and in fact, these organizations began developing CCSS at the directive of the US Department of Education and President Obama. Additionally, these same organizations that wrote these new standards are the same ones who wrote the curriculums that will teach to the standards and they are also the ones who are writing the assessment tests that will test how well our children are learning the new standards! Jason Zimba, one of the writers of the Math standards, admitted publicly that the standards would not prepare students for STEM careers nor would they prepare students for selective colleges. He also said “if you want to take calculus your freshman year of college, you will need to take more Mathematics than is in the Common Core.” So, how will these standards help us do better?

He wrote: “Rote standardized test preparation and “scripted” teaching practices are a disservice to teachers and won’t prepare our children for rigorous learning standards like the Common Core.” Please, take the time to look through the EngageNY curriculum that school districts are using. The curriculum is scripted. It tells the teacher what to say, what response she should elicit form his/her students, and it gives a specific allotment of time for each activity. Students are expected to memorize processes rather than understand underlying concepts. Here are some examples:
[http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/ckla\_g1\_d4\_anth.pdf](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.engageny.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fresource%2Fattachments%2Fckla_g1_d4_anth.pdf&h=TAQGMx78G&enc=AZMrwURme8FAUM2C_lSL6oBOIcNJ8e6JVJw4fRw_cnK-4pjuPMcB30Ua4_WkQT8aFkpREqbHR0nw0M6K4PXyc9pA_7Vqy7A4LkhTh9uz7NvYOpCX_1X560-kqt7HbMTq3tOQUloiikrqnVgtE4wEtmlw&s=1)

[http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/g4-m1-full-module.pdf](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.engageny.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fresource%2Fattachments%2Fg4-m1-full-module.pdf&h=RAQGD0VJt&enc=AZNazBh-BYmqhGsCP5IHe4v-veFWO3v-FiSNGzYifCekfBiQJa3wSSSPJACYyrBZqus6yciSTBbZN_wEtR54yxQOvymaQbWa0w5r62fKbogrqC_FW0FBDOOkfxSd5SZs2KG6eYRiCgNeEK9Iu3dlXa3y&s=1)

[http://www.engageny.org/resource/common-core-video-series-kindergarten-mathematics-double-10-frames](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.engageny.org%2Fresource%2Fcommon-core-video-series-kindergarten-mathematics-double-10-frames&h=qAQEC-BdJ&enc=AZMXZMtdYAU8iE4QbdwgBzVN0fOhpHDnHWamwlPhsckNlaW8yE_nfyrT282TKTbVcrMd86cKku-rjyf0mZ7jd5KO2cXyXtbZwIQ05HNFTeW4X9ePt_dkHqszILKgkNlh017wO6HCRFejfLPeFazUl-1v&s=1)

He wrote: “At its December meeting, the Board of Regents proposed $125 million (increasing to $200 million per year in subsequent years) for a Core Instruction Development Fund to encourage and facilitate educator and parent learning about the Common Core. Support at home can be a critical resource for student success.” Am I the only one who finds it alarming that New York State Department of Education has to spend $125 million to help teachers and parents understand a new curriculum? The cost of this education reform is already extraordinary.<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/albany/2013/11/8536421/teachers-wait-next-chapter-283-million-curriculum>

Please, support all efforts to end Common Core in NY!

Thank you!

**Email:**

Good evening!

As you prepare to head back into session next week, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you about how the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative is more about profit and corporate greed than it is about Education. CCSS has provided an opportunity for corporations to profit through the development and sale of materials geared toward implementing the new CCSS standards.

As you know, CCSS was co-created by two not-for-profit public policy organizations: The National Governor’s Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Despite the fact that both of this organizations have the words “Governor” and “states” in their titles, public influence was NOT a part of the process of the development of CCSS and in fact, these organizations began developing CCSS at the directive of the US Department of Education and President Obama. Additionally, these same organizations that wrote these new standards are the same ones who are writing the curriculums that will teach to the standards and they are also the ones who are writing the assessment tests that will test how well our children are learning the new standards! It sound a lot like they are trying to build an empire rather than improve educational outcomes!

“The NGA and the CCSSO share a number of funders, including The College Board, ACT, and Pearson Education. The CCSSO is additionally funded by a number of other well known educational publishers such as Scholastic and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. As Mercedes Schneider, a teacher and Huffington Post blogger has uncovered, Pearson Education created its charitable foundation and started donating money to the NGA and the CCSSO at precisely the same time that they started to develop the new standards. Recently, Pearson agreed to pay a $7.7 million fine to New York State for illicitly using its charitable foundation to promote its financial interests related to Common Core. Pearson has stated openly that it expects to make millions off the new materials, especially its online and digital resources. It is not a far stretch of the imagination that other educational corporations expect to do the same. Indeed, a recent article posted by Education Week noted that 68 percent of all school districts plan to purchase new instructional materials for the coming school year, the overwhelming majority of which will be toward implementing Common Core Standards.” (Following the Money Trail: Who Profits From the Implementation of Common Core State Standards? By Cheryl Slavin Rockland County Times December 27th, 2013)

Let me take this opportunity to list for you all of the companies, organizations, and child-geared websites that stand to profit, either directly or indirectly, from the implementation of Common Core standards.

Accenture
ACT, Inc.
AdvanceED
Advance Illinois
Aetna
Apple
Association of American Publishers
BAE Systems
Battelle
Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, Inc.
The Boeing Company
Business Coalition for Student Achievement
The Business Coalition for Educational Excellence at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.
Business-Higher Education Forum
Business Roundtable
Crayola
Dell Inc.
Disney
Eastman Chemical Company
Eastman Kodak Company
Evans Newton Incorporated
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
GlaxoSmithKline
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
Greater Phoenix Leadership
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenville, SC
Harper Industries, Inc.
Hawaii Business Roundtable
IBM Corporation
Illinois Business Roundtable
Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
ING
Intel Corporation
Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce
Knoxville Chamber
Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber, Laurinburg, NC
MetaMetrics
Microsoft
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Manufacturers
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Nevada Manufacturers Association, Carson City, Nevada
New Mexico Business Roundtable
Ohio Business Roundtable
Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Partnership for New York City
PBS
Pearson and all of its’ subsidiaries
Pennsylvania Business Council
Qualprint
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, Rochester, Minnesota
Rockwell Automation
Rockwell Collins
Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona
SAS Institute, Inc.
Software & Information Industry Association
State Farm Insurance
Starfall
Target
Tennessee Business Roundtable
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Verizon Communications, Inc.
WalMart
Wireless Generation
Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN)
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

There are more…too many to mention in this email. But, this demonstrates how far and wide the arms of CCSS go. We, the parents, educators, administrators, and citizens are all for higher academic standards that will best prepare our children for a successful future. We are NOT supportive of an education reform that is motivated by greed and profit while being falsely packaged as an improved system of college and career readiness. We want Common Core OUT of New York State. Are you going to support our children or the corporations that stand to profit from a one-size-fits-all education system?

Thank you!

**Email:**

Good evening!

Education in New York State is being controlled by the Board of Regents, an unelected group of 17 citizens, who oversee the State Department of Education. For the past three years, their policies have been informed by an exclusive group of research analysts, the “Regents Fellows”, who are employed by the Regents Research Fund (RRF). The RRF is funded by donations and they have reportedly received over $19 million in donations from individuals and corporations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Regent Chancellor Merryl Tisch herself. Up until recently, not many people even knew that the RRF existed and some of your colleagues that sit on the Education Committee who are charged with appointing the Regents don’t even know what the RRF is!

To paint a clearer picture: the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has funded the development and writing of the Common Core State Standards, the EngageNY curriculum that is being used widely by school districts across New York State, and ALSO the secret group of individuals who tells New York State Board of Regents and the Department of Education what policies to implement, what curriculum to use, what tests to administer, and how to evaluate effectiveness of teachers and principals. Additionally, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents donated the first $1 million to support the development of the RRF – this is a blatant conflict of interest that no one has been willing to enforce accountability for!

Additionally, the Regents Fellows are paid hefty salaries, some up to $200,000 per year, and they do not have backgrounds in Education. Ultimately, private sector employees are doing a job that is supposed to be done by the New York State Department of Education. When confronted with concerns, Chancellor Tisch flippantly stated that questions and criticisms are a “sexy thing to say in this environment” and has been unwilling to listen to parents, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders.

I ask you this: Are we talking about public education, or a monopoly controlled by the wealthy? Is the implementation of CCSS going lead to improved college and career readiness or a greater disparity between the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated? Why is the New York State Department of Education placing so much weight in the opinions and recommendations of a group of people who are clearly advocating for policies and procedures that will benefit the individuals and corporations that are funding them?

Thank you!

**Email:**

Good evening!

Tomorrow, you return to Albany. You will be reading, reviewing, and voting on legislative bills that will affect the state of education for many years to come. I know you take your job seriously and you work hard to represent our voices. You have received thousands upon thousands of emails, letters, phone calls, and faxes from parents, teachers, administrators, and concerned citizens. You have attended community events and forums, met with constituents, and you have probably spoken to the press numerous times.

I want to take this time to encourage and pray for you as you begin this legislative session. Regardless of your spiritual and religious beliefs, please know that we are thinking about and praying for you and your work.

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the blessings you have bestowed upon me, for the gift of my children, and for trusting me to guide them to You in all that I do as a parent. I thank you for a government that was built for the people, by the people, and with your Holy Spirit embedded throughout every inch of our Constitution. I thank you for all of the parents, teachers, administrators, and board members who have joined together over the last year to fight for what we believe in – a fair, equal, and individualized education for our children. Common Core is not the answer, Lord, but You have given us an opportunity to step back and reevaluate our intentions and our focus. For that I thank You. I pray, Lord, for the men and women who have been elected to represent us, for their wisdom and discernment to be able to separate fact from fiction, reality from propaganda, and to honor the wishes of New Yorkers. You have placed them in a seat of power for a reason. You see the entire tapestry from beginning to end. Please hold them closely in Your hands as they vote on the future education of our children. Whatever happens, Lord, You will continue to provide and bless. In Your Holy and Undisputable Name, Amen.

God bless you all!